

NOTE TO PIOs: If conducting interview regarding general status, identify self as public information officer for homeland security.

- Situation still extremely dangerous – urging all people to leave New Orleans
 - Water still rising in New Orleans – 80% of city under water
 - Getting people out of affected areas
 - Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, U.S. Coast Guard and National Guard are conducting search and rescue via boats and helicopter and still taking people from rooftops and attics.
 - Supplying food and water to those areas
 - Federal, state and local officials conducting disaster assessments
- According to State Police Public Information Officer Lawrence McLeary, “State Police is moving to aid the New Orleans Police Department to quell the looting and other incidents.”
 - The National Guard has over 3,000 troops on the ground with more support coming from out-of-state
- There are in excess of 34,000 people in shelters.
 - Currently moving about 23,000 individuals from the Superdome to the Houston Astrodome
 - (Neither Superdome nor Astrodome meant to be permanent shelters)
 - Buses and trucks en route now
 - Hoping to get everyone out by the end of the day.
- Communications remains spotty
 - Land lines are down.
 - Cellular coverage is spotty. Companies working to restore cellular communication
- About 850,000 homes and businesses in SE La. without electrical power
- No water or sanitation in the New Orleans area
 - Asking people in affected areas not to flush or drink water
- Countless people devastated. In need of housing and assistance.
 - To make monetary donations, contact the Red Cross at 1-800-435-7669.
 - To donate goods and services through Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster – 225-925-7377